602-1475.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE THE APPLICATION OF	)
	) Examiner:
Cole	)
	)
SERIAL NO.: To Be Assigned	)
	)Group Art Unit:
FILED: Herewith	)
	)
FOR: Method and Apparatus for Determining Temperature of and Controlling the Evaporation of Liquid Samples	)

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The present application is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/508,215 the national filing of International Application No. PCT/GB99/00560. A copy of the specification for that application is being submitted herewith. Before calculation of the filing fee, it is requested that the application be amended as follows:

In the specification:

Page 1, after the title, add the following section:

-- Related Application

This application is a division of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/508,215, filed March 8, 2000.--

Page 2, after line 17, add the following paragraph:

-- Conveniently the processing means is contained within a housing.--

Page 17, line 19 through page 18, line 3, revise the text to read as follows:

Figure 7 shows the important components of the monitoring system for a chamber such as shown in Figure 1. Each probe 15 connects to an input of a signal processor 50, the output of which is digitised by an A/D converter 52 for supply to a microprocessor 54 which handles the modulation of a radio signal in a transmitter 56 to which signals are supplied from the microprocessor for radiation by an antenna 58. A power supply 60 may comprise a battery. Except for the probe 15 and antenna 58, all the units shown in Figure 7 may be housed within a housing located on the sample holder rotor 5A so that there is no relative movement between it and the probe 15. The chamber 14 must be constructed so that at least part of its wall is capable of transmitting the radio signals from the antenna.

<u>In the claims</u>:

Cancel claims 1 - 60 without prejudice, and to substitute new claims 61 - 66 as follows:

61. Apparatus for supporting microtitre plates, each containing a plurality of liquid samples, for evaporation in a centrifugal evaporator, wherein heat is supplied to the microtitre plates via a supporting frame and via trays extending thereacross on which the microtitre plates are located, the trays and the frame being formed from a material having a high thermal conductivity, and wherein each tray on which a microtitre plate is located, includes a region formed with an upstanding portion defining a platform adapted to fit into and engage a recessed underside of a microtitre plate located thereon, which would otherwise be spaced from the tray, thereby to improve the transfer of heat between the tray and the plate.

62. Apparatus as claimed in claim 61, wherein the frame and trays are formed from aluminum or copper.

63. Centrifugal evaporation apparatus in which a plurality of samples are mounted within a chamber in which the samples are heated and rotated during an evaporation process, wherein the samples are contained in a plurality of sample plates containing a plurality of wells or other liquid containing devices, the plates being supported on heat conductive trays in turn supported within a heat conductive frame, and means are provided for heating the support frame, the heat being conveyed by conduction to the sample plates and samples contained therein.

64. Apparatus as claimed in claim 63, wherein the heating means is infra-red radiation directed towards the said support.

65. Apparatus as claimed in claim 63, in which the sample plates are microtitre plates, wherein the trays and the frame are formed from a material having a high thermal conductivity, and wherein each tray on which a microtitre plate is located includes a region formed with an upstanding portion defining a platform adapted to fit into and engage a recessed underside of a microtitre plate located thereon, which would otherwise be spaced from the tray, thereby to improve the transfer of heat between the tray and the plate.

66. Apparatus as claimed in claim 63, wherein the frame and trays are formed from aluminum or copper.

REMARKS

The above amendments are being made to the specification in order to correct the specification and add a proper reference to the parent application, and also eliminate the claims in favor of only the claims for this divisional application.

For the Examiner's reference, claims 61 and 62 correspond to claims 57 and 58 of the parent application, with amendment of the language of the independent claim for proper antecedent basis. Claim 63 corresponds to claim 61 of the parent application, with claims 65 and 66 again corresponding to claims 57 and 58 of the parent application, but now dependent upon claim 63.

Examination of the divisional application on its merits is awaited.

Dated: November 26, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

Page 17, line 19 through page 18, line 3:

Figure 7 shows the important components of the monitoring system for a chamber such as shown in Figure 1. Each probe 15 connects to an input of a signal processor 50, the output of which is digitised by an A/D converter 52 for supply to a microprocessor 54 which handles the modulation of a radio signal in a transmitter 56 to which signals are supplied from the microprocessor for radiation by an antenna 58. A power supply 60 may comprise a battery. Except for the probe 15 and antenna 58, all the units shown in Figure 7 may be housed within a housing located on the sample holder rotor 5A[.] [S]so that there is no relative movement between it and the probe 15[, the]. The chamber 14 must be constructed so that at least part of its wall is capable of transmitting the radio signals from the antenna.